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gration of our Weeds," begs another favor of the readers of the GAZETTE. It is to kindly report to the undersigned the advent (or disappearance) of any weed in their section of the country within the past five, ten or more years, and if possible the method by means of which the species became introduced (or eliminated). In the preparation of such a paper it is not enough to go to the books. The personal observations of the many active botanists of to-day are necessary in order to bring the treatment down to date. With such assistance there will be no excuse if the compiler fails to present matter of permanent value to both the growing of crops and botanical science.—BYRON D. HALSTED, *New Brunswick, N. J.*

Nostoc pruniforme.

I notice in the November GAZETTE (p. 291) that Professor C. B. Atwell makes a singular remark on *Nostoc pruniforme* with reference to my Fresh Water Algæ, saying that when my volume appeared this *nostoc* was not mentioned. The fact is, more is said of this species than of any other. Prof. Atwell ought to re-read page 284 and the lower half of page 279.

Bethlehem, Penn.

FRANCIS WOLLE.

Ribes aureum.

In the BOTANICAL GAZETTE for November is a note by Mr. F. W. Anderson on the fruit of this species.

Here, in Eastern Oregon, the two forms with the yellow and black fruits are found. The former is very abundant, the latter more rare. "Yellowish, turning blackish," certainly does not apply to our forms any more than it does to those mentioned by Mr. Anderson as found in Montana.

In all the books, so far as I have seen, the leaves are said to be "convolute in the bud." I have examined many of the yellow-fruited form and find them invariably involute in the bud. The black-fruited form I have never had opportunity to examine in this respect.

Union, Oregon.

WM. C. CUSICK.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE RARE *Croton Alabamensis*, E. A. Smith, is described and illustrated in *Garden and Forest* (Dec. 11).

GERALD MCCARTHY, of the North Carolina Experiment Station, is preparing a historical paper on Carolina botany, and desires to purchase or borrow authentic portraits of the elder Michaux, Pursh, Elliot and Walter.

ACTA HORTI PETROPOLITANI, vol. x. part 2 (1889) contains several articles dealing with the Siberian flora, and hence of interest to North American botanists. A list of plants collected by Slowzow in the Kirghis desert, and another one of the plants of N. E. Siberia, represent some of the last work of the late E. R. von Trautvetter. C. Winkler describes 20 new Compositæ from Turkestan, all of the genus *Cousinia*. F. ab Herder writes of the apetalous plants of the Raddean collection of Eastern Siberia, the present part containing the *Chenopodiaceæ* and *Amarantaceæ*. E. Regel gives a biographical sketch of Trautvetter, with portrait, and C. T. Maximowicz one of N. M. Przewalski, also with portrait.

IN THE December *Gazette*, p. 318, reference was made to the fact that Amos Eaton had sent three specimens of roses from the same bush to Sir Joseph Smith, who determined them to be as many distinct species. The specimens were sent by Dr. Bigelow and the story narrated by Amos Eaton (see Watson, *Proc. Am. Acad.* 20. 328).

THE FIRST FASCICLE of economic fungi, issued by A. B. Seymour and F. S. Earle, is now ready. The series is intended to supply a set of authentic specimens to illustrate the diseases of useful and noxious plants. The first fascicle contains 50 species, and is a general collection of destructive parasites, especially those of the vine and rose families. The price is \$3.00 for specimens in envelopes, or \$3.50 for a copy mounted in book form.

THE LAST annual report of the state botanist of New York, dated December 10, 1888, has just appeared. Besides the usual lists of additions to the herbarium, it contains descriptions of 44 new species of fungi, with a synopsis of the New York species of *Clitopilus* (14 species), and two plates. Our species of *Clitopilus* seem to be peculiarly American, but 2 of the 14 occurring in Europe, and 10 of them having been described by Mr. Peck.

IN THE *Journal of Botany* (Dec.) is the second report of the committee appointed by the British Association to report upon the disappearance of British plants. The alpine plants are especially the sufferers, and many of them are entirely extirpated from their well-known haunts. The blame is laid chiefly upon dealers and collectors, the summer visitors being only indirectly responsible. A list of 55 species is given, which are either extirpated or nearly so.

IN THE *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for December Prof. Jos. Schrenk has a paper on "The floating tissue of *Nesaea verticillata*," in which is described, with the aid of three handsome lithograph plates, the same tissue which Schenk in his recent monograph (see this journal xiv. 317) calls *aërenchyma*. Professor Schrenk inclines to the opinion of earlier students of this tissue that it is not so much an adaptation for aeration as for floating the shoots.

IN A PAPER recently (Nov.) read before the American Academy by Dr. Geo. L. Goodale, the author gave some results of a series of experiments on the effects produced on some tropical plants by a temperature of 40 to 34 degrees. Briefly stated they are as follows: (1) no physical injury apparent to the cell-wall; (2) effect on protoplasmic contents merely a reduction of rate of circulation; (3) no appreciable change in the size of sap-cavities; (4) a notable reduction of the power of plasmolytic agents, plainly pointing to a diminution in the power of absorption.

AS THERE continues to be a call for the key to the genera of mosses published in 1886 by one of the editors (B.), the announcement is made that the edition is now entirely exhausted. There is reason to think that this key has been helpful to a considerable number of the less experienced students of mosses and has perhaps encouraged some to undertake their study. The author has, therefore, with the hope of still further increasing the number of amateurs, undertaken the preparation of keys to the species of the larger genera of mosses, and hopes to republish the key to genera with this additional matter at an early day. He would be thankful, therefore, to have any errors or omissions in the key to genera pointed out.

AN INTERESTING list of Alaskan plants is published in Proc. Nat. Museum, vol. xii, pp. 217 and 218, among the scientific results of explorations by the U. S. F. Com. steamer Albatross, in 1888. The plants are named by Dr. George Vasey, and give information concerning a region that is always interesting and too little known. Fifty-nine species are enumerated, 7 of them being Compositæ, 5 Cyperaceæ (4 of which are species of *Eriophorum*), 4 each of Rosaceæ and Scrophulariaceæ, 3 each of Ranunculaceæ, Saxifragaceæ, Ericaceæ, Gramineæ and Filices, the rest scattered through various orders.

THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE met in Indianapolis December 30 and 31. Of the 72 titles presented nearly 20 were botanical. The subjects were as follows: Some remarkable floral variations, *C. W. Hargitt*; Some anatomical structures of *Epiphegus*, *E. M. Fisher*; Stem characters in Compositæ, *Harry Seaton*; Some Indiana mildews, *M. A. Brannon*; Plant reproduction, *W. J. Spillman*; Plants new to Putnam county, *C. T. McDougal*; Plants new to Vigo county, and Some new Compositæ, *W. S. Blatchley*; Determination of lower plants, and The trees of Indiana, *Stanley Coulter*; Development of the macrospore of *Isoetes*, and Method of sectioning delicate structures, *Douglas H. Campbell*; Variation of plants immature seeds, *J. C. Arthur*; The "snake cactus," Stone characters in *Nyssa*, Distribution of *Cornus*, *Epiphegus* and *Mycorhiza*, and The National Herbarium, *John M. Coulter*.

AGATHIS AUSTRALIS (the Kauri) is the monarch of the New Zealand forests, and although it does not rival the giant Sequoias of North America in its extreme height and circumference, it excels them in the intrinsic value of its timber, which possesses a larger number of good qualities than any other pine known to commerce. The interior of a large Kauri forest affords one of the most impressive scenes in the colony. Smooth gray trunks rise on all sides, like massive columns, perfectly straight and symmetrical to a height of 80 feet or even 150 feet, with a diameter of from 4 to 15 feet or upwards. In addition to its exceedingly valuable timber, this tree furnishes abundance of resin known as Kauri gum, large quantities of which are also dug up at a depth of 6 to 7 feet from the ground once covered by primeval forests of this tree.—*Gardiner's Chronicle*. The Kauri pine is illustrated in *Garden and Forest* of December 4.

THE TRUSTEES of the Missouri Botanical Garden, in pursuance of the policy outlined in this journal, xiv, 288, announce the establishment of six scholarships for "garden pupils," which are to be awarded before the first of April by the Director upon competitive examination. These scholarships are open to young men between 14 and 20 years of age, of good character and possessed of at least a good elementary English education. They may be held for not more than six years if suitable ability and fidelity are manifested. Such pupils are to be regarded as apprentices of the garden, and are to be required to work in it under the direction of the head gardener during the first year for 9 to 10 hours daily; in the succeeding years not more than 5 hours daily, the remainder of their time being taken up with instruction and reading in a graded course including practical and theoretical topics pertaining specially to a gardener's work. In addition to comfortable lodgings, convenient to the garden, each pupil will receive wages amounting to \$200 for the first year, \$250 for the second and \$300 for the succeeding years. Applications for these scholarships must be in the hands of the Director (Dr. William Trelease) not later than March 1. The examination will be held at St. Louis on Tuesday, March 4, and the successful candidates will be initiated in their work on the 1st of April. Further information may be obtained by addressing the director.